

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

UNCLAS STATE 258304

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: BEXP, ECON, XD

SUBJECT: SOUTH ASIA COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE

1. STATE AND COMMERCE CONSIDERING HOLDING JOINTLY FUNDED ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE, FOCUSING ON TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAMS AND PROBLEMS, IN COLOMBO FROM TUESDAY, APRIL 6, THROUGH THURSDAY, APRIL 8.

2. FIELD PARTICIPATION IN COLOMBO CONFERENCE TO BE DRAWN FROM SOUTH ASIAN POSTS BECAUSE OF THE COMMONALITY OF COMMERCIAL AND OTHER ECONOMIC CONCERNS IN THESE COUNTRIES.

CONFERENCES TO BE "IN HOUSE" WITHOUT HOST GOVT INVOLVEMENT.

3. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE NEED EARLY JUDGMENT FROM YOU REGARDING FEASIBILITY OF HOLDING CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO AT UNCLASSIFIED

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TIME MENTIONED. YOUR REPLY SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION

FOLLOWING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT THAT WILL BE REQUIRED:

A) HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS AND CONFERENCE ROOM. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO DELUXE HOTEL WHERE ADVANCE RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE WITHOUT INCURRING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT HOTEL IN WHICH ALL OR MOST PARTICIPANTS WOULD RESIDE WOULD PROVIDE

SUITABLE CONFERENCE ROOM, FREE OF CHARGE. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF WASHINGTON AND FIELD ATTENDEES REQUIRING ROOMS IS ABOUT 20 TO 25 PERSONS.

B) COMMERCE WOULD SEND EXPERIENCED ADVANCE OFFICER ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE TO HANDLE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS. EMBASSY OFFICER WOULD BE NEEDED TO SUPPORT AND COORDINATE.

C) SECRETARIAL SUPPORT. FULL-TIME SERVICES OF ONE SECRETARY FOR WEEK OF CONFERENCE WOULD BE NEEDED TO ASSIST WASHINGTON ADVANCE/PROJECT OFFICER WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSCRIBE NOTES.

D) TRANSPORTATION. TRADITIONAL PRACTICE AT THESE CONFERENCES IS THAT EMBASSY ATTEMPTS TO PROVIDE CAR AND DRIVER, AS REQUIRED, FOR THE 2 (STATE AND COMMERCE) CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRMEN.

E) REPRESENTATION. PRACTICE IN MANY PREVIOUS CONFERENCES OF THIS TYPE HAS BEEN FOR AMBASSADOR OR OTHER EMBASSY OFFICIAL TO HOST RECEPTION ON EVE OF CONFERENCE FOR PARTICIPANTS, LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, AND HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THIS IS NOT A NECESSARY FUNCTION, BUT WE WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE OF ANY EMBASSY EFFORT.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS SOONEST ON WHETHER IT IS ABLE TO HOST CONFERENCE DURING THE PERIOD PROPOSED, AND WHAT PROBLEMS IF ANY POST MAY ENCOUNTER IN MEETING LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS. KISSINGER

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